United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Vladimir Petrovsky to arrive in Tripoli on Monday, 17 August, to deliver personal letter from Secretary-General to Libyan leader Muammar Al-Qathafi; Sanctions Committee appeals to all States who have not yet done so to report of measures undertaken regarding sanctions against Libya.

+ Exceptional Session of Human Rights Commission condemns all violations of human rights, particularly concept and practice of "ethnic cleansing" in former Yugoslavia and especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina; requests appointment of Special Rapporteur to investigate human rights situation.

+ Under-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson due in Baghdad on Monday, 17 August, to conclude negotiations with Iraqi authorities on renewing Memorandum of Understanding, which expired on 30 June.

+ 11 casualties from United Nations Protection Force reported in various parts of former Yugoslavia yesterday; the same day, a record 28 humanitarian flights land at Sarajevo airport.

+ Secretary-General to send Francesc Vendrell, Director in Department of Political Affairs, as emissary to accompany Organization of American States mission leaving for Haiti on Tuesday, 18 August.

+ Special Representative in Cambodia signs United Nations Electoral Law for Cambodia, 1992, with five changes from draft presented to Supreme National Council in April.

+ Iran, in letter to Security Council President, says Council "and others" have failed to address root cause of problem in Bosnia Herzegovina.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Vladimir Petrovsky to leave this weekend for Libya to

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For information media—not an official record

deliver a personal letter from him to the Libyan leader Muammar Al-Qathafi, a United Nations spokeswoman said today. Mr. Petrovsky will arrive in Tripoli Monday, 17 August.

The mission is being undertaken in the framework of resolution 731 (1992) which asked the Secretary-General to seek the cooperation of the Libyan Government in establishing responsibility for the terrorist acts against Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. The Council imposed sanctions against Libya on 15 April when the country failed to comply with that request.

In a related development, the acting Chairman of the sanctions Committee established under resolution 748 (1992), which imposed the sanctions against Libya, has expressed concern that a large number of States have not yet informed the Committee of the measures they have taken concerning the sanctions.

In a statement issued today, the Committee noted that of the States that had replied, very few have given any indication of the measures they had undertaken to reduce significantly the number and level of the staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts in their territories, as required under resolution 748.

The Committee appealed to all States that have not yet done so to "give immediate effect to this mandatory requirement" and urged all those States that have not responded at all "to do so as soon as possible".

The Council decided under resolution 748 that all member States must notify the Committee of the measures taken by them regarding the sanctions, which include an air and arms embargo, as well as limitations on staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad.

On Wednesday, the Council President said in a statement following the Council's first 120-day review of the sanctions that there was no agreement among Council members that necessary conditions existed for the modification of the sanctions.

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The Exceptional Session of the Human Rights Commission, which ended its two-day meeting in Geneva today, has adopted a resolution condemning all violations of human rights, particularly the concept and practice of "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavia and especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to a press report from Geneva, the resolution, adopted by consensus, called upon all parties in the conflict to release immediately all persons arbitrarily arrested or detained. It requested the Chairman of the Commission to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate first hand the human rights situation in former Yugoslavia. The rapporteur, who has yet to be nominated, is expected to report no later than 28 August.

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Jan Eliasson, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, is due to arrive in Baghdad on Monday, 17 August, to conclude negotiations with the Government of Iraq on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding, which covers United Nations humanitarian programmes in Iraq.

Accompanying Mr. Eliasson will be eight officials from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Iraqi Relief Coordination Unit, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme.

The negotiations - to get underway on Monday - aim to break a deadlock that has existed between the United Nations and the Iraqi authorities since the current Memorandum of Understanding expired on 30 June.

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Eleven casualties from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were reported in various parts of former Yugoslavia yesterday, a spokeswoman for the Secretary-General informed correspondents today.

In Sector East - in East Slavonia - one Belgian soldier was killed and another very seriously wounded when their vehicle hit a mine. In Sector North - in northern Krajina - eight Nigerian soldiers were injured and taken to hospital after the truck in which they were traveling collided with a car. In Sector Sarajevo, one Egyptian soldier was hit in the abdomen when a camp housing Egyptian soldiers came under fire.

Regarding humanitarian flights, a Spokeswoman told the press that a record 28 flights had landed at Sarajevo airport yesterday.

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A United Nations spokeswoman confirmed today that the Secretary-General would be sending Francesc Vendrell, Director of Americas Division, Department of Political Affairs, as emissary to accompany members of the Organization of American States (OAS) mission leaving for Haiti on Tuesday, 18 August. Mr. Vendrell would himself be accompanied by a senior political affairs officer in the same Department.

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The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, exercising his power under the Paris Agreements, yesterday signed the United Nations Electoral Law for Cambodia, 1992. As required by the Agreements, the content of the Law was determined in consulation with the country's Supreme National Council (SNC).

According to a press release from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which Mr. Akashi heads, the Law differs from a draft presented to the Council on 1 April in five aspects. The first relates to the definition of a Cambodian person, in terms of qualifying to register to

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vote. The other changes relate to the prohibition of the use of portraits of Prince Norodom Sihanouk or Angkor Wat as symbols of the political parties; where voting facilities for overseas voters will be provided; when the election campaign begins and ends, and the widening of the definition of what constitutes an offence before, during and after the election period.

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The root cause of the problem in Bosnia Herzegovina is the "expansionist and hegemonic policy of Serbia and Montenegro exercised through their well equipped and trained army", contends the Deputy Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations, Javad Zarif.

In a letter dated 13 August and addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Iranian Representative also notes that, despite all the efforts by the Security Council and the European Community to mediate a political solution in Bosnia Herzegovina, "the carnage continues". According to the document, the aggressors have achieved most of their goals: the non-Serbs have been uprooted from their homes and towns, "ethnically cleansed so to speak", and more than 2.5 million civilians have been rendered homeless. "This is nothing but a crime against humanity", the letter says.

The Iranian letter also points out the failure of the Security Council "and others" to have addressed the root cause of the problem in the region. Instead, it says, the humanitarian needs in Bosnia Herzegovina "which are the natural symptoms of the aggression" have received greater attention, "albeit, unsuccessfully".

Confronted with the Serbian aggression which "has reached an enormous and catastrophic proportion", the Iranian Ambassador calls for a "genuine, concrete, and decisive decision" by the Security Council in accordance with Article 42 of the United Nations Charter.

In separate letters yesterday to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Pakistan expressed similar concerns about the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Egyptian letter said it was necessary for the Security Council "to affirm the respect of all States for the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the full sovereignty of its Government over its territory within its frontiers" to permit that State to exercise the right of self-defence within the framework of the United Nations Charter.

The letter from Pakistan expressed the view that Bosnia and Herzegovina should be exempted from the arms embargo imposed under Security Council resolution 713 (1992). It also informed the Council President that the Pakistani Government had decided not to accept the claim of the new Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) as "the successor state of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".
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